

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, and 22 have been amended and new claims 24-27 have been added to recite additional features of the invention.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for being anticipated by the Chawla patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites broadly embodiments in the invention disclosed in the specification. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first memory is divided into at least two blocks “that store different system programs” and that a second block of the at least two blocks further stores recovery program for performing a firmware update operation. These features are not disclosed in the Chawla patent.

The Chawla patent discloses a system which includes a ROM 60 that stores firmware instructions to be executed by processor 58. During initialization, firmware stored in ROM 60 is copied to a RAM 62 where it is executed to perform a control function of the system.

As shown in Figure 3, ROM 60 is divided into two sections, each of which stores firmware. In fact, the Chawla patent discloses that the divided sections of the ROM are images of one another and therefore identical. (See column 6, lines 39-51.) In contrast to claim 1, the Chawla patent therefore does not disclose dividing a first memory into at least two blocks “that stored different system programs,” where a second block further stores “a recovery

program for performing a firmware update operation.” (Emphasis added.)

Because the Chawla patent does not disclose all of the features recited in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the Chawla patent cannot anticipate this claim. Applicant further submits that these differences are sufficient to render claim 1 and its dependent claims non-obvious and thus patentable over the Chawla patent.

Claims 7, 9, and 22 have been amended to recite features similar to those which patentably distinguish claim 1 from the Chawla patent. For example, claim 7 recites a first memory which is divided into first and second blocks which “store different system programs” and wherein the second block further stores “a recovery program for performing a firmware update operation.” Claim 9 “recites dividing an area for storing different system controlled programs into at least two blocks.” Claim 22 recites logically dividing a ROM into a main block and an auxiliary block that store different programs. In view of these differences, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 9, 22, and their dependent claims are allowable over the Chawla patent.

Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being obvious in view of the Chawla patent and official notice of subject matter taken by the Examiner. Applicant submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from base claim 9.

New claims 24-27 have been added to the application.

Claim 24 recites that the first block stores a program or data for performing general system controller functions and the second block stores a program or data for performing a Power On Self Test (POST) of the system. The Chawla patent discloses that the divided portions of its ROM are identical to one another. Chawla does not disclose the features recited in claim 24.

Claim 25 recites that the first block stores a program or data for performing a Power On Self Test (POST) of the system and the second block stores a program or data for performing general system controller functions. The Chawla patent does not disclose these features.

Claim 26 recites that the recovery program performs the firmware update operation in response to a user input signal. The Chawla patent does not disclose these features, i.e., Chawla does not disclose updating firmware in any of the divided blocks of its ROM in response to a user command.

Claim 27 recites that the first and second blocks store the update program. The Chawla patent does not disclose these features when taken in combination with the other features recited in base claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Serial No. 09/750,507

Docket No. HI-0156

Amendment dated June 13, 2006

Response to Office Action dated March 14, 2006

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 16-0607 and credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 13, 2006

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